

Message Text

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70

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 EB-11 DRC-01 /155 W

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P R 161844Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9596

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY THEHAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 0374

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA'S TRAVEL PLANS

1. AT LUNCHEON YESTERDAY WITH NATO AMBASSADORS, I WAS ABLE TO PIECE TOGETHER PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA'S PLANS FOR A MID-WINTER SWING AROUND CENTRAL EUROPE. OCCASION FOR THIS TRIP, WHICH HIS FORTHCOMING HOSTS APPARENTLY GREETED WITHOUT MARKED ENTHUSIASM, IS HIS FAVORABLE RESPONSE TO THE INVITATION OF THE "ROME CLUB" TO ATTEND MEETINGS IN SALZBURG ON FEBRUARY 4 AND 5. SCHEDULE HAS BEEN WORKED OUT, I AM TOLD, THAT CALLS FOR ECHEVERRIA TO DEPART FROM MEXICO ON FEBRUARY 6 AND 7 IN BONN, FEBRUARY 8 AND 9 IN BELGRADE, FOLLOWED BY TWO DAYS EACH IN VIENNA FOR OFFICIAL VISIT AND ROME, RETURNING TO MEXICO ON OR ABOUT FEBRUARY 15. ALL OF THESE VISITS ARE RESPONSES TO INVITATION EXTENDED LONG AGO. GERMAN AND ITALIAN AMBASSADORS INFORM ME THAT RABASA OUTLINED THESE PLANS TO THEM YESTERDAY IN USUAL FASHION OF INFORMING THEM HOW LUCKY THEY WERE TO HAVE THIS MARK OF ATTENTION THOUGH THEY INDICATED THEIR GOVERNMENTS PREFERRED MORE

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ADVANCE NOTICE ON THESE VISITS AND ALSO THAT WEATHER IN

MID-FEBRUARY WAS HARDLY PROPITIOUS FOR THIS SORT OF THING.
DUTCH AMBASSADOR WAS SUMMONED URGENTLY BY RABASA DURING
LUNCH SO OBVIOUSLY TRIP MAY BE EXTENDED FURTHER.

2. COMMENT: IT WILL BE INTERESTING TO SEE IF ECHEVERRIA
CAN ESCAPE TEMPTATION TO POP IN TO EAST BERLIN DURING
THIS JOURNEY. THE ACTIVE AND AGGRESSIVE EAST GERMAN
AMBASSADOR WILL DOUBTLESS PUSH THIS POSSIBILITY WHEN
WORD OF TRIP BECOMES PUBLIC. GERMAN AND ITALIAN AMBASSADORS
WERE TOLD MRS. ECHEVERRIA WOULD NOT ACCOMPANY HER HUSBAND
TO EUROPE AT THIS TIME BUT THEY OBVIOUSLY FEEL THERE
MAY BE A LAST-MINUTE CHANGE ON THIS POINT.
MCBRIDE

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